

South v West: Sorrento FC



South Melbourne hosted Western Australian opposition during the 2017 FFA Cup.

That season South were required to win four games in a row to qualify for the national rounds, including a stunning comeback against Dandenong City at Lakeside.

In the national rounds, South defeated Edgeworth Eagles, and Sorrento defeated Canberra Olympic to lock in a match against one another at Lakeside.

Just under 1,000 people were in attendance at Lakeside for the Wednesday night clash which started with a bang.

In the first minute Leigh Minopoulos opened the scoring after following up a loose ball in the box. The goal set the tone for the game and the Western Australians weren't able to recover.

As the first half was coming to a close a beautiful through ball from Marcus Schröen found Nick Epifano free in the box. Epifano made no mistake of the opportunity and doubled South's lead just before half time.

At the 69th minute the result was put beyond doubt by South legend Milos Lujic, who headed the ball from close distance to take the score to 3-0.

Sorrento would not return to Perth empty handed though and at the 90th minute enjoyed a consolation goal from a header in the box.

However South would have the last word as just two minutes later Epifano would score again. After collecting the ball at the edge of the box, Epifano beat his Sorrento defender to create space for a free shot, and score South's 4th goal of the game.

South Melbourne 4, Sorrento 1.

South would go onto defeat Gold Coast City in the quarter finals before facing Sydney FC in front of around 6,000 fans at Lakeside. Unfortunately Sydney FC were too good on the day managing to defeat South in pouring rain.



Blue and White Views

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South Melbourne vs Fremantle City @ Lakeside Stadium

South to face Fremantle City



After a stunning come from behind victory against Adelaide United, South Melbourne now face Fremantle City in the Round of 16 of the Australia Cup.

South's 'cupset' was one of four so far in this edition of the Australian Cup, and solidifies their status as favourites for this home clash against the Western Australians.

Fremantle on the other hand secured passage to the round of 16 after a last gasp away victory against Maitland FC.

Despite the travel to Northern New South Wales and falling behind in the match, Fremantle were able to score goals at the 88th minute and 90th minute to secure the 2-1 win.

This continues a strong run of form for the Western Australians who are fourth in the NPL WA and have gone eight league games in a row without a loss.

South however are also enjoying an extended run of strong league form with four wins in their past five games including a surprise 2-1 win against ladder leaders Oakleigh.

However Fremantle are a team who know how to play with their backs against the wall. The team has a recent track record of scoring late goals against the run of play, so even with the home ground advantage, South will need to remain sharp until the final whistle.

Let's go South!

About Blue and White Views

Blue and White Views is an unofficial source of news and opinion about the South Melbourne Football Club.

The platform was established in 2025 as a way to support the club ahead of its inaugural Australian Championship campaign. It has since provided fanzines, podcasts, blogs and even an annual magazine, free of charge, for fans of South Melbourne.

Blue and White Views has generated over 10,000 website hits and distributed nearly 1,000 physical fanzines at matches.

You can support Blue and White Views by following the platform on social media.

Help Blue and White Views on its mission to enhance South Melbourne's fan culture!

For more South content check out:
blueandwhiteviews.com



New player impacts



South feels full of fresh faces since the midseason transfer window, so let's check in on how they are settling in.

Bul Juach has scored just one goal from five games but his equaliser against Adelaide was a banger that show he still possesses the quality to change games.

David Yoo has surprised fans with his impact to the squad with a goal against ladder leaders Oakleigh and a critical assist in the Australia Cup.

Paulo Retre has brought experience and helped to steady the at times shaky defence however still seems to be slowly building match fitness after a long A-League offseason.

Hassan Ramazani has made a huge impact showing class in defence and creating threats moving the ball forward. His error against Adelaide was unfortunate but he showed a great mentality to finish the game strong.

So far the new signings have made a good impact and show plenty of upside.

Reserves Update



At time of writing, South's U23s are 4th in the league and are enjoying strong recent form. Many players have been called up to the Senior squad this season and George Saristavros in particular is enjoying a breakout year, with 10 goals scored so far in the competition.

The high placing is despite heavy squad rotation necessitated by the club's simultaneous OPL and NPL commitments. During this period many U23s were called up to senior football, and the U23's result suffered with the team managing just one win in May.

However, despite this volatility the team has climbed back up the ladder of a very tight league, where only five points separate 3rd to 9th.

The U23s have now won six of their last nine games and are looking to finish the season strongly.

The SMFC Quiz

1 point per correct answer

Australia Cup Questions:

1. What is the furthest South has reached in the Australia Cup?
2. Who knocked out South in the 2025 Australia Cup?
3. Who was the first A-League team South defeated in Australia Cup?

NPL Questions:

4. Who scored South's goals in the 2026 home win against St Albans?
5. Where did South play their 2026 home game against Bentleigh?

History Question:

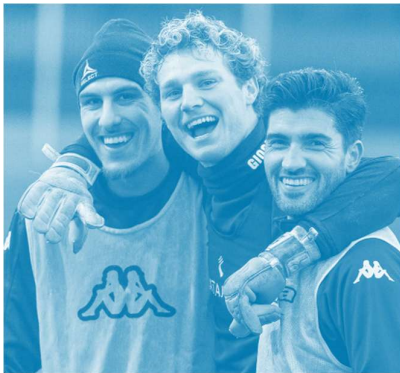
6. What was Ange Postecoglou's last year as South coach?

Who am I?

- (5 pts) I joined South in 2021
- (3 pts) I have won a South Best and Fairest award.
- (2 pts) I have played over 100 games for South
- (4 pts) English is not my first language.
- (1 pt) I am a goal keeper.

*Answers: (1) Semi-Finals
(2) Auckland FC (3) Wellington
(4) Andrew Mesourouni
(5) Home of the Matildas (6) 2000
Who am I? Javier Diaz Lopez*

The Run Home



South have found good form in recent weeks and now enjoy a small buffer in the top six. However, challenging games against direct opponent means that Hellas is not yet locked in for finals. South will face Heidelberg, George Cross and Melbourne City in the final rounds.

Heidelberg

The derby against Heidelberg will undoubtedly be the most challenging match however Heidelberg have struggled in recent times, having not won a game in the league since May. Heidelberg seem to be struggling most up front, with just four goals in their past five league games. The Bergers will need a result against Hellas or risk dropping out of the finals race.

Recent improvement from forward Ciaran Bramwell appears promising, however the Bergers need something special to break their winless drought.

George Cross

George Cross similarly have not shown convincing form with just one win in their past five matches. Their recent performance against bottom half Altona was disappointing and does not bode well for George Cross' run home.

George Cross face Avondale, Hume and South in their last three games with at least two upsets likely required for them to have a chance at finals. Although the season overall has been a pass mark for the recently promoted team, it is clear they have a way to go before becoming true contenders in the NPL.

Melbourne City

Melbourne City appear to be the NPL's dark horse. With a game in hand and more forgiving fixture (two games against cellar dwellers Bentleigh), City would fancy their chances to sneak into finals.

However, with A-League contracted players being rotated post financial year end, the club has struggled for form with three losses in a row at time of writing.

Pos.	Team	Pts.
2	Hume City	43
3	Avondale	41
4	South Melbourne	38
5	Preston Lions	37
6	Heidelberg	34
7	George Cross	32
8	Melbourne City	30

At time of writing

Sydney Olympic in shambles



With just four games to go Sydney Olympic are rooted to the bottom of the NPL NSW table and look set to be relegated. With just one win in their past five games, there is little indication the club will be able to turn its form around in time.

It's a harsh fall for the club which just last year finished 7th in the league, however a new youth-focused strategy has appeared to impact results.

Despite this, the club has secured a presence on the national stage, with a surprise qualification to the Australia Cup Round of 32, as well as direct access to the Australian Championship as a foundation member.

This will be cold comfort to Olympic fans though if the club is relegated from its bread-and-butter league, the NPL.

In the NSW NPL, 16th place is directly relegated and 15th enters a relegation playoff. Chances for Olympic are slim, but with four games left there is hope.

However, it appears the club faces more challenges off-field, as highlighted by a poor crowd (c.1000) for the club's recent Australia Cup match against Brisbane Roar. The Greek Herald has been reporting on fan concerns for a while now, with questions directed at the Olympic Board and its governance structure which allows for a unique 'benefactor member' that enjoys a different level of control over the club.

The episode exposes the fragility of football communities and the need for South fans to remain vigilant.

Like Olympic, South Melbourne is the big Greek heritage club of its city. And shares its ground with other sporting organisations. However, South has responded to these challenges more successfully.

South negotiated a stronger facility agreement, whereas Olympic have been forced at times to play games at Kogarah rather than their usual ground of Belmore. South has worked to improve crowds whereas, Olympic's community appears disengaged.

Finally, when South faced relegation, last year they managed to stay up, Olympic may not be so lucky...

Pos.	Team	Pts.
13	NWS Spirit	31
14	St George City	31
15	St George FC	20
16	Sydney Olympic	19

SMFC Squad

See below the 2026 SMFC Senior Squad per the club's official website.

Goalkeepers	
1	Javier Lopez
20	Jake Charlston
Defenders	
2	Richard Nkomo
3	Jordan Lampard
4	Marco Jankovic ©
5	Hassam Razmani
23	Jacob Eliopoulos
27	Jack Painter-Andrews
?	Sam Fawcett
Midfielders	
7	David Yoo
8	Paolo Retre
11	Yuki Uchida
14	Alex Menelaou
17	Thomas Giannakopoulos
18	Andre Skapoulas
21	Sebastian Pasquali
22	Max Mikkola
Forwards	
7	Ishveer Singh
9	Jordan Swibel
10	Bul Juach
13	James Lackay
16	Arran Cocks
19	Andrew Mesourouni

Player Spotlight



Thomas Giannakopoulos

Defender, Age: 23

South's imposing defensive utility is often seen rotating between Centre Defence and Defensive Midfield providing a challenging blocker to opposition attacks and a trusted outlet for South's build up play.

Since joining South last year Giannakopoulos has locked in his spot in the starting 11, steadying the defence and occasionally finding himself of the scoresheet, with three goals in the OPL.

Prior to signing for South, Giannakopoulos was instrumental in securing Dandenong City a surprise Grand Final spot in the 2025 season but since donning the Blue and White he has developed into a top-class player, and shown he has a high potential.

He often goes through games unnoticed, making even challenging plays look effortless, however his huge stature and solid results can't be as easily ignored.

South Watch



Date	Opponent	Result
2/8	St Albans	2-0 W
30/7	Adelaide United	2-0 W
24/7	Oakleigh Cannons	2-1 W
18/7	Preston Lions	0-0 D
10/7	Dandenong City	2-0 W

By a stroke of luck for South, the match against Fremantle is occurring during a break in the league, allowing for South to enjoy a full week of rest.

South is coming off a commanding victory against St Albans in the league where two goals from Andrew Mesourouni proved the difference.

However it is rather the dominant display against A-League side Adelaide which appears instructive. South controlled the ball well and calmly claimed the win even after a mistake which saw them concede early.

Rival Watch



Date	Opponent	Result
1/8	Perth Azzuri	2-2 D
22/7	Maitland FC	2-1 W
18/7	Perth Red Star	3-0 W
11/7	Sorrento	2-0 W
4/7	Bayswater City	1-1 D

Although Fremantle find themselves fourth in the NPL WA and on a stunning undefeated run their performances have not been as convincing.

Although they avoided losses in recent games against Perth and Maitland, Freo lacked control for large parts of these games.

Nevertheless, this is a team that knows how to win, and how to score late. Coming in as underdogs, Fremantle will be backing themselves to upset South at Lakeside.